mitigate the genuine grievance of the State in this regard and by when the price structure of LPG will be lowered in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAION SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The ex-storage point price of LPG at all the refineries is fixed at uniform level. The transportation element from refinery to bottling plants and to the final markets alongwith various local levies like State Sales-Tax, Octroi imposed by various States/Local Authorities affect the final selling price of LPG in different states.

(c) and (d) The price of LPG packed (domestic) in the State of Gujarat is more due to the higher Sales-Tax levied by the State Government.

Assistance to Panchayats for afforestation Schemes

2372. SHRI S. MUTHUMANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to involve the village communities through Panchayats in the massive projects to green the non-forest lands in the countty;

(b) whether the Government are also considering to grant financial and other assistance to Panchayats at par with NGOs, under various National Afforestation schemes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Gram Panchayats will be fully involved in the implementation of government afforestation programmes. They will assist in the formation of user groups to enhance people's participation in the operation and maintenance of the assets created. The Gram panchyats will also monitor and review programmes to ensure that the norms have been followed in their implementation.

Opening of Post Offices at Kota Giwai

2373. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to answer to Unstarred Question 6142 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th May, 1995 and state:

(a) whether proposal for opening an extra departmental branch Post Office at Kota Giwai in Almora District of Uttar Pradesh has been decided; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Opening an Extra Departmental Branch Post Office at Kota Giwai in Almora District of Uttar Pradesh has been found justified as per departmental norms, but actual opening of Post Office will depend on availability of resources and sanction of staff.

Reducing Pollution in river Gomati

2374. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.K. has provided any grant to redice pollution in River Gomti as part of the Ganga Action Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work on the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) The Overseas Development Administration, U.K. is providing grant assistance for pollution abatement works

of the river Gomati in Lucknow under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II. This assitance will be provided in two phases. Under Phase-I, 4.02 million pounds have been allocated for works relating to survey, mapping and cleaning of existing sewers, diversion of drains and for the setting up of a project management unit to prepare a Master Plan relating to capital works. On successful completion of Phase-I, a decision regarding second phase will be taken by the Overseas Development Administration in consultation with this Ministry.

Profit of IOC

2375. SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND: DR. RANBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETORLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation claims to earn huge profits during the first six months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of fields of profit;

(c) whether Government propose to take some steps to ensure that similar profits are made by the other Oil Companies under the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) During the first six months of the current financial year, Indian Oil Corporation has earned profit after tax to the tune of Rs. 742.83 crores (provisional) as against Rs. 660.09 crores during the corresponding period of the privious year.

(c) and (d) Other Oil Companies are also making good profits.;

Repairs of Roads after Digging

2376. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the MTNL Delhi had undertaken very extensive road digging in Delhi and New Delhi areas for laying new cables and cable ducts during the first quarter 1995;

(b) whether in most such cases the repair work has not been undertaken so far; and

(c) whether Government propose to discuss this matter with all concerned authorities to streamline the procedure to ensure that full road repair work is taken up and completed immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) The MTNL undertakes the digging work after paying the Road Restoration charges to the concerned road maintaning agencies. The back filling of excavated earth and dressing is done by MTNL after laying of cables. The permanent repairing of the road is the responsibility of concerned civic agencies e.g. M.C.D., N.D.M.C. PWD etc.

(c) This point is discussed in the inter-utility coordination committee meetings being held with the various road maintaining agencies and stress is made to repair the roads as early as possible after laying of cables is completed.

आत्महत्याओं के कारणों का अध्ययन

2377. **श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी:** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने नवयुवक और नवयुवतियों में आत्महत्याओं की बढ़ती हुई संख्या के संबंध में सरकारी तथा सामाजिक स्तर पर कोई अध्ययन किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस प्रकार की आत्महत्याओं के पीछे क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इन कारणों को रोकने के लिये